

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Rick Jore, on March 30, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 137 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Rick Jore, Chairman (C)  
Rep. Roger Koopman, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Holly Raser, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)  
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)  
Rep. Douglas Cordier (D)  
Rep. George Everett (R)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Bob Lake (R)  
Rep. Jesse O'Hara (R)  
Rep. John Ward (R)  
Rep. Franke Wilmer (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Michael Lange (R)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Susan Fox, Legislative Branch  
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 129, 3/21/2007; SB 225,  
3/19/2007  
Executive Action: SB 335; SB 23; SB 266; SJR 4  
SB 89

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 335**

00:02:07 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Raser moved that **SB 335 BE CONCURRED IN. MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by roll call vote with Reps. Koopman, Everett and Lange voting by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 23**

00:04:00 **Motion:** Rep. Raser moved to **RECONSIDER THE ACTION AND REMOVE SB 23 FROM A TABLE VOTE.**

**Discussion:**

00:04:33 Rep. Butcher

00:04:39 Rep. Raser

00:05:17 Chairman Jore

00:05:34 Rep. Wilmer

00:05:50 **Vote: MOTION CARRIED** 8-4 by roll call present and voting vote with Reps. Blasdel, Butcher, Jore, and Lake voting no.

**HEARING ON SB 129**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:07:17 Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D), SD 11, opened the hearing on SB 129, Revise truancy laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:09:23 Sharon Patten Griffin, Associate Principal, Great Falls

00:16:02 Irene Wells, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Great Falls School District

00:20:50 Det. James Kaiser, Resource Officer, North Middle School, Great Falls

00:25:31 Rep. Jesse O'Hara, HB 18, Great Falls

00:26:21 Kathy Little, Alliance for Youth, North Middle School and Missouri River Boys Home, Great Falls

00:29:33 Cindy Duffy, High School English Teacher, Great Falls

00:35:15 Pat Volkmar, Industrial Shop Teacher, Great Falls

00:36:28 Kathy Firman, Great Falls Public School, Alternative Attendance Center (Paris Gibson Middle School)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

00:36:36 Rep. Everett arrived at hearing

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:39:05 Rep. Ward  
00:39:50 Det. James Kaiser  
00:41:01 Rep. Cordier  
00:42:17 Sharon Patten Griffin  
00:47:24 Rep. Ward  
00:48:12 Sen. Schmidt  
00:51:38 Rep. Raser  
00:53:29 Sharon Patten Griffin  
00:55:09 Rep. Raser  
00:56:19 Kathy Little  
00:58:08 Rep. Lake  
00:59:02 Sen. Schmidt  
01:03:23 Chairman Jore  
01:03:38 Rep. Butcher  
01:05:19 Sharon Patten Griffin  
01:17:13 Rep. O'Hara  
01:18:01 Rep. Bixby  
01:20:51 Sharon Patten Griffin

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:23:22 Sen. Trudi Schmidt

**HEARING ON SB 225****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:28:14 Sen. Lynda Moss (D), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 225, May choose new mill levy election date after legislative session.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:32:46 Lance Melton, Montana Schools Boards Association  
01:36:47 Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction  
01:38:02 Bruce Messinger, Superintendent of Helena Public Schools  
01:39:56 Terry Minow, MEA/MFT

**Opponents' Testimony:** None**Informational Testimony:**

01:40:27 Linda Brannan, representing Montana Association of School Business Officials

01:40:36 Rep. Lake left the hearing

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:41:06 Rep. Cordier  
01:41:58 Bruce Messinger  
01:42:38 Rep. Butcher  
01:43:22 Lance Melton  
01:45:25 Rep. Butcher  
01:46:28 Lance Melton  
01:48:23 Chairman Jore

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:49:03 Sen. Lynda Moss

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 89**

01:53:53 **Motion:** Rep. Butcher moved that **SB 89 BE CONCURRED IN.**

01:54:27 **Motion:** Rep. Koopman moved that **SB 89 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT (edh68a01)**

**Discussion:**

01:54:54 Rep. Koopman  
01:56:03 Rep. Ward

01:57:03 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote with  
Reps. Lake and Lange voting by proxy.

01:57:18 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Butcher moved that **SB 89 BE  
CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by  
voice vote with Reps. Lake and Lange voting by proxy.  
Rep. Raser will carry SB 89.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJR 4**

01:58:59 **Motion:** Rep. Butcher moved that **SJR 4 BE ADOPTED.**

**Discussion:**

01:59:12 Rep. Ward  
01:59:27 Rep. Hamilton

02:00:16 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote with  
Reps. Lake and Lange voting by proxy. Rep. Everett will  
carry SJR 4.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 266**

02:01:23 **Motion:** Rep. Butcher moved that **SB 266 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

02:01:50 Rep. Grinde  
02:02:20 Rep. Koopman  
02:03:41 Rep. Ward

02:03:46 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** 13-2 by voice vote with Reps. Jore and Koopman voting no and Reps. Lake and Lange voting by proxy.

**Additional Exhibits:**

**EXHIBIT (edh68a02)**

Pertaining to SJ 16 heard in Committee on March 26, 2007

**EXHIBIT (edh68a03)**

and

**EXHIBIT (edh68a04)**

Pertaining to SB 123 heard in Committee on March 21, 2007

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:30 P.M.

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REP. RICK JORE, Chairman

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DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

RJ/dp

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([edh68aad.pdf](#))**